

REMARKS

In response to a final Office Action mailed on October 22, 2003, a Response to Office Action was mailed on April 22, 2004, together with a Petition for a three-month extension and Notice of Appeal. An Advisory Action was mailed on May 14, 2004, indicating that the Response of April 22 would not be entered. A Preliminary Amendment was timely mailed on June 22, 2004, together with a Request for Continued Examination.

In the Preliminary Amendment of June 22, 2004, Applicants canceled claims 1 – 6, 8 – 14 and 29 – 43 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 16, 22, and 50, and added new claims 57 and 58. As a result, claims 16 – 28 and 44 – 58 are currently pending.

In the present Amendment, Applicants further cancel claims 16 – 21 and 44 – 49 without prejudice or disclaimer, reserving all right to file a continuing application including one or more of these claims at a later date.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 22 – 28 and 50 – 58, consisting of independent claims 22, 50, 56 and 57, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to

be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

We respectfully request that all fees relating to this application be charged to
Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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